REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, and 10-44 are pending.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7, 8, and 10-44 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) for being anticipated by the Huang patent. Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection for the following reasons.

As depicted in Fig. 10, the Huang system includes an inductor 81, capacitor 82, and a pair of switches 83, 84. The inductor is interposed between the capacitor and switches. Based on this construction, the energy stored into and discharged from the capacitor flows through conductive paths that include a ground. This is apparent from Figures 8 and 9, which show that each of the charging and discharging paths include a ground connection.

In marked contrast, claim 1 has been amended to recite that "an electrically conductive path from a first conductor of the panel capacitor to a second conductor of the panel capacitor via the first switch is formed **without passing through a ground**." This is illustratively shown in the non-limiting embodiment of Figure 9, in which switches Q3, Q4 are interposed between the inductor L and the capacitor Cp. As shown in this drawing, no portion of the conductive path between the panel capacitor and the first switch includes a ground connection.

More specifically, the electrically conductive path from the right conductor of the panel capacitor to the left conductor of the panel capacitor, via the switch Q4, does not pass through a ground, e.g., the electrically conductive path formed by the left conductor of the capacitor Cp, node N1, diode D2, switch Q4, inductor L, node N2, and the right conductor of the capacitor,

does not pass through the ground. The Huang patent does not teach or suggest these features.

Because the Huang patent does not disclose all the features of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the Huang patent does not anticipate claim 1 or any of its dependent claims.

Claims 19, 34 and 36 have been amended to contain similar claim language as that cited above with respect to claim 1, and are allowable for at least the same reasons indicated above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 5 has been amended to recite that "the inductor stores energy recovered from the plasma display without using a ground." See, for example, Figures 8 and 9 which shows that the electrically conductive path from the left conductor of the capacitor to the right conductor of the capacitor is formed without passing through the ground. As such, the inductor L stores the energy recovered from the capacitor without using the ground.

The Huang patent does not disclose these features. In contrast to claim 5, the Huang patent discloses using a ground to store or retrieve energy from the capacitor. (See Figs. 8 and 9). Because the Huang patent does not disclose all the features recited in claim 5, it is respectfully submitted that Huang does not anticipate claim 5 or any of its dependent claims.

In rejecting claim 7, switches 83 and 84 in Fig. 10 of Huang appeared to be equated to the switches recited in claim 7. The switches 83 and 84 of Huang are turned on during the periods when the voltage applied to the capacitor is changed and these same switches are turned off when the panel capacitance is clamped at a predetermined voltage. (See also the third and fourth periods in FIG. 7 of Huang).

As such, the Huang patent does not disclose that "a sustain voltage applied to the panel capacitance is clamped at a predetermined voltage when the second switch is on" as recited in claim 7. Based on these differences, it is submitted that claim 7 and its dependent claims are allowable.

In rejecting claim 25, switches 85 and 86 in Fig. 10 of Huang were said to correspond to the switches of the clamping circuit (e.g., Q1, Q2 in Fig. 9). As recited in claim 25, the switches are connected to node 1. In Huang, node 1 is the node common to the right terminal of the inductor 81 and the left conductor of the capacitor 82. (See Fig. 10).

Claim 25 further recites that the charging/discharging circuit is disposed between the first node and the third node. Thus, in Huang, the third node is the node common to the left terminal of switch 83 and to the ground.

Claim 25 also recites that the charging/discharging circuit is disposed between the second and third nodes. Thus, in Huang, the second node is the node common to the left terminal of the inductor 81 and to the right terminal of the switch 84.

As a consequence, in Huang, the inductor 81 is disposed between the first and second nodes. Thus, Huang does not disclose "an inductive coil in series between the second the third nodes," as recited in claim 25. Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 25 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claim 37 recites that the first switch (e.g., Q3 or Q4) has a first terminal directly connected to the inductor L and the second switch (e.g., Q4 or Q3) has a terminal directly connected to the first terminal of the first switch.

In contrast, in Huang, the first switch 84 has a right terminal directly connected to inductor 81 via a conductor line, but the second switch 83 does not have any terminal directly connected to the right terminal of first switch 84 via a conductor line. Rather, the second switch 83 has the right terminal connected to the right terminal of first switch 84 via the diode (87), i.e., second switch 83 has the right terminal indirectly connected to the right terminal of the first switch 84.

As such, Huang fails to disclose: "wherein the first switch has a first terminal directly connected via a conductor line to the inductor and a second terminal coupled to the panel, wherein the second switch has the one terminal directly connected via a conductor line to the first terminal of the first switch," as recited in claim 37. Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 37 and its dependent claims are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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